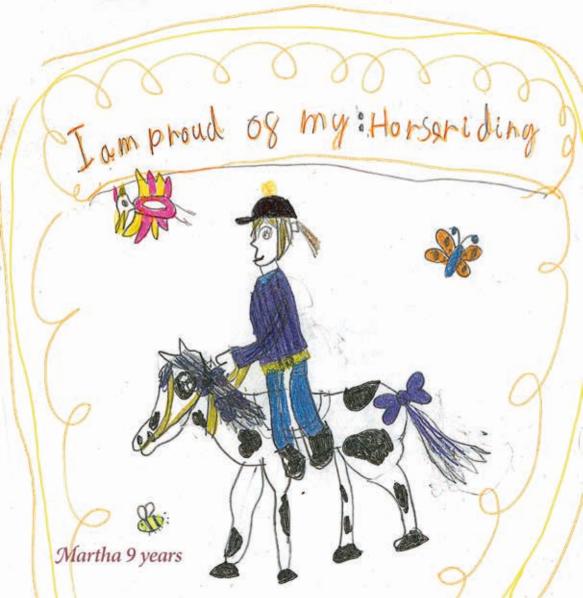
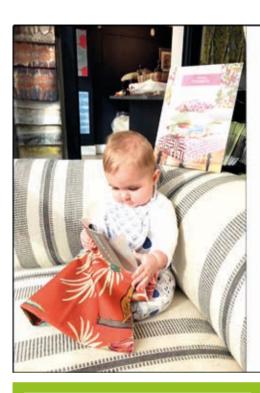
January 2023

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Editorial

appy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed some relaxing time with family and friends. As I write this, three weeks before Christmas, it seems strange to be thinking of January already! But here we are with another new year upon us, and it is exciting to think of what 2023 will bring.

As is our usual January tradition, we have asked for some cheery pictures from the children of The Schools of Woolton Hill to bring joy to January. This year's theme was "Let your Light Shine", the new motto of the now-federated St. Thomas' Infant School and Woolton Hill Junior School; the children were asked to draw something they achieved or were proud of in 2022. We had some marvellous contributions, including Martha's drawing on the front cover of her horse riding. Well done to all the children on their artwork and of course on their achievements last year.

The children of St Martin's School have also been hard at work raising donations for the West Berks Food Bank. Read about their great efforts in supporting this worthy cause.

It's fantastic to see some of the local events back in action post covid, as well as welcoming some new ones – new classes in dance and Pilates are starting in the new year. Who's game?

I do hope the start of 2023 brings you joy too. See you in February.

Sarah

Editor for February & March 2023:

Sarah Allchurch, The Brambles, Broadlayings, Woolton Hill, Newbury RG20 9TT. sarahlwilliamson@hotmail.com, Tel 07789 514462

https://www.wooltonhill.com/spectrum

Spectrum is a monthly community magazine serving East Woodhay and Woolton Hill. It is run by a committee of volunteers and is a not for profit publication. Reports on village activities and articles of local interest are welcomed for publication subject to the discretion of the editor. Copy should reach the editor by the seventh day of the month preceding publication and should be a maximum of 500 words. In the event of pressure for space, the editor reserves the right to reduce the length of the article while attempting to maintain the style of the writer and retaining as much content as possible.

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Diary of Events January 2023

	Monday	2 nd	Evergreens	HVH	2.00-4.15pm
	Tuesday	3 rd	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm
	Wednesday	4 th	NWR		8pm
	Friday	6 th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
	Friday	6 th	Community Café	St Thomas Church	10-11.30am
	Tuesday	10 th	EW WI	EWVH	2.30pm
	Wednesday	11 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm
	Friday	13 th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
	Friday	13 th	Community Café	St Thomas Church	10-11.30am
	Monday	16 th	EWLHS	EWVH	8pm
	Tuesday	17^{th}	Arbor Flora	HVH	2.00pm
	Wednesday	18 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm
	Wednesday	18 th	NWR		8pm
	Friday	20 th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
	Friday	20^{th}	Community Café	St Thomas Church	10-11.30am
	Wednesday	25 th	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm
	Thursday	26 th	WH & D'rict Gardeners' Club	WHCH	7.30pm
	Friday	27 th	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
	Friday	27 th	Community Café	St Thomas Church	10-11.30am
	Saturday	28 th	Village Market	WHCH	10-1pm
	Monday	30 th	EW Parish Council	EWVH	7.30pm
February 2023					
	Wednesday	1 st	EW Short Mat Bowls	EWVH	7.30pm
	Friday	2 nd	Woodhay Walkers	WHCH	10.30am
	Friday	2 nd	Community Café	St Thomas Ch	10-11.30am
	Monday	5 th	Evergreens	HVH	2.00-4.15pm
Γ					



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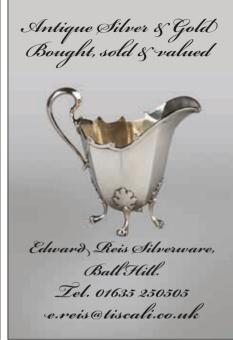
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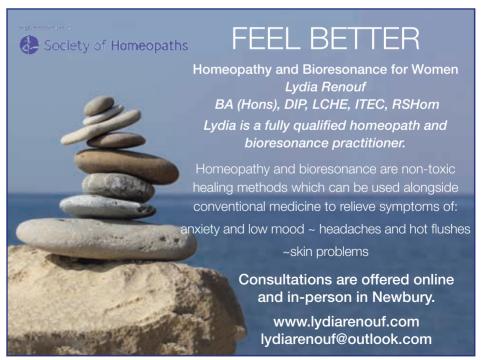
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East Woodhay Local History Society



Dr Hugh Pihlens visited us in November to give an excellent talk on when William III came to Hungerford and the importance of that visit in our national history.

The result is known as The Glorious Revolution which was a sequence of events leading to the deposition of James II in November 1688. He was replaced by William who was James' nephew and married to James' daughter, Mary II.

It was quick and fairly peaceful that ended a century of political dispute by confirming Parliament over the Crown enshrined in the Bill of Rights in 1689.

This was the catalyst for further development that led to our current democratic state and the ending of the Divine Right

of Kings.

The local connection is that Hungerford - and The Bear Inn especially – was the centre for the final

The Bear, Hungerford

discussions between James' representatives,

who were staying at Ramsbury Manor, and William who was staying at Earl Craven's Hamstead Marshall house (sadly burnt down in 1697). As you pass The Bear on the A4 you will see a plaque commemorating the event's 300th anniversary.

Chris Dalton Secretary



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East Woodhay Twinning Association Quiz Night

We are delighted to announce that the Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 4th March 2023 in Woolton Hill Church Hall. The doors will open at 7pm and the Quiz will start at 7.30pm. The price will be £15 to include a tasty supper.

If you are interested in putting in a team, do let me know as soon as you can. Thanks.

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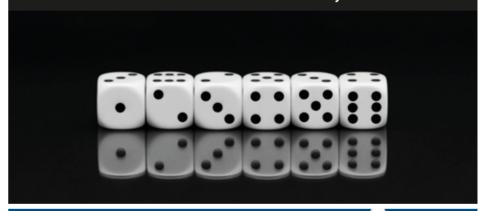
A lucky charm could spur us on, A horseshoe on the wall. Make sure it hangs the right way up Or there'll be no luck at all.

I have a lucky Pixie brooch It's pinned to my lapel. A sprig of heather next to it Brings extra luck as well. Perhaps you have a lucky charm You carry every day? Safe inside your pocket To help you on your way.

You throw a die – a number shows. Is this your lucky one? Wish upon a shooting star For happy days to come.

Cold weather, frost and windy days, With luck, won't last for weeks. So light the fire and pour the wine Enjoy some tasty treats.

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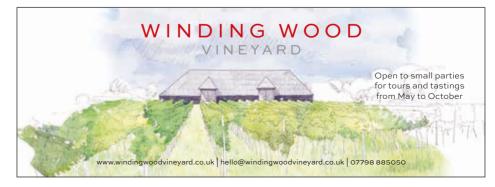
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St Martin's CE Primary School

Food Bank Fridays

t St Martin's school we have lots of very active pupil voice groups that help around the school in various wavs.

The School Council is one of these groups. The group meets regularly during the school year and is made up of two children from every class who have the role for the year. They help to make important decisions about school and how to make it better for all.

A few years ago, the School Council was instrumental in starting our 'Food Bank Fridays'. This happens on the first Friday of each half term. All pupils bring in donations for the food bank which are then collected and taken to West Berks Food Bank. The members of School Council wait by the school gates to collect

the donations and give stickers to all children who donate. The children then sort the food into crates ready for the food bank to collect later in the day. Each collection seems to be getting bigger and the children more enthusiastic.

The fantastic community around St Martin's also contribute to the collections. We let the neighbours know of the collection dates in our regular newsletters to them. We were delighted earlier this year when two of our children decided to take the initiative even further and collected donations from their local village to add to our collection, meaning we collected even more than usual and could help more local people in need.

In November, the members of the school council visited West Berks Food Bank and found out what

they do and why. This was a very important visit for us as it shows the School Council how the donations are distributed and how important it is for us to continue with Food Bank Fridays. It also gave the pupils motivation to do even more advertising



to promote these collections to members of the wider community.

We have had some wonderful feedback from Rosie at the food bank who is thrilled at the donations from Food Bank Friday and presented us with a certificate to show the number of local people we help and the impact it has in the community. This is a fantastic achievement considering the size of St Martin's. We are so proud of all the children and parents and thank them all for their continued support.



Our next collections are on Friday 6th January and Friday 24th February. If you would like to contribute, then please do send the school office an email and they can give you further details.

For more information on St Martin's School, please visit our website: www.st-martins.hants.sch.uk Or email the school at adminoffice@st-martins.hants.sch.uk





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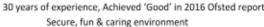


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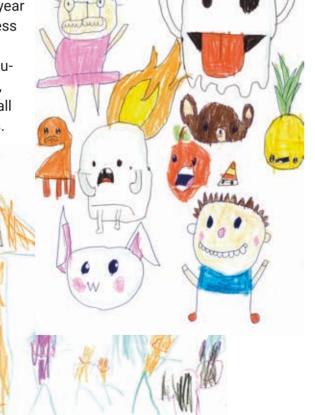
The Schools of Woolton Hill

s is the usual tradition each January, the editorial team at Spectrum have collaborated with The Schools of Woolton Hill to source some of their marvellous artwork. To reflect the federated schools' new motto "Let your Light Shine", this year, the children were asked to draw something they achieved or something they were proud of in 2022.

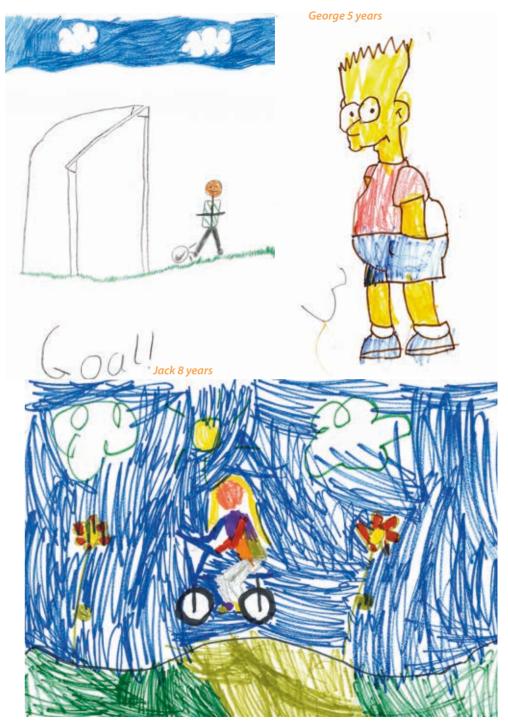
Much effort was put into the task, and we had some fabulous

pictures. Here are a few of our favourites, which include the picture on our front cover by Martha, aged 9, in year 4, who is very proud of her progress with her horse riding last year. A big thank you to our other contributors, Jack, Erin, Christian, George, and Henry. Wonderful work! You all certainly put a smile on our faces.

Christian 5 years



Henry 6 years



Erin 5 years

Dear Friends,

And so, another year begins...

2022 was not the year we all hoped it would be. We thought we were moving on from pandemic restrictions and we could begin to recover our lives. Then war in Ukraine began, an energy crisis developed, poverty increased with steep cost of living increases and strikes began. Now in January we look to 2023 and unfortunately, all of these things are still with us in our world. Just where is the 'peace on earth' that we have just been celebrating?

You may be busy putting away Christmas decorations as January begins, but there is a tradition to keep the Nativity scene out until Candlemas (2nd February, when the Church celebrates Jesus being presented in the temple, Luke 2:22-40). Purists will send the wise men back to their far-off land and the shepherds back to the hills to tend their sheep; just keeping out the Holy Family (Mary, Joseph and Jesus) who sit out amongst the busyness of a return to the routine of daily life. Keeping the Holy Family on display in our homes and churches for a few more weeks reminds us that the 'news of great joy' and the 'peace on earth' the angels proclaimed is not also put away with the tinsel and the tree. They are a sign that this great news of God's peace and presence with us in Christ changed the world. Just as the wise men returned home somehow different, and the shepherds returned to the hills proclaiming what they had seen and heard – so the continuing presence of the Holy Family reminds us that we too can be different, because of Christ, because of Christmas.

We may still be longing for peace on earth amidst continuing darkness, but the truth is that peace on earth begins in me, and in you. It begins in kindness, in love, in compassion, in respect, in forgiveness and new starts. It begins in finding joy in small blessings: in a smile or in the beauty of an early frost. It begins with doing what we can and not what we can't.

May such beginnings be our hope and bring blessings both to us and to others in the year to come.

Canon Christine

East Woodhay Charities

HELP WITH WINTER FUEL BILLS

We still have funds for winter fuel grants of up to £200 each. If you live in the parish of East Woodhay and are struggling with your bills please apply. Application forms are available from The Stores and The Surgery, online from the East Woodhay Parish Council website, or can be requested by emailing ew.charities@gmail.com.

Sue Wren Hon Secretary

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Church Services JANUARY 2023

Welcome! Service details are correct at time of publishing, any necessary changes will be posted on church noticeboards.

SUN 1 st Naming of Jesus	Benefice Communion	East Woodhay	10.00am	
SUN 8 th	Holy Communion	East Woodhay	8.00am	
Epiphany	Parish Communion	Woolton Hill	9.30am	
	Matins	Highclere	11.00am	
	Baptism	Highclere	12.30pm	
SUN 15 th	Morning Worship	Woolton Hill	9.30am	
Epiphany 2	Holy Communion	Ashmansworth	9.30am	
	Parish Communion	Highclere	11.00am	
	Evensong	East Woodhay	6.00pm	
SUN 22 nd	Holy Communion	Highclere	8.00am	
Epiphany 3	Parish Communion	Woolton Hill	9.30am	
	Morning Worship	East Woodhay	9.30am	
	Evensong	Crux Easton	5.00pm	
SUN 29 th	Benefice Communion	Highclere	10.00am	
Presentation of Christ				
WED 4 th January Holy Communion Woolton Hill 10.00 am WED 1 st February Holy Communion Woolton Hill 10.00 am				

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Associate Priest: Vacancy

Associate Filest. Vacancy

Readers: Suki Coe 07990 755323 Horace Mitchell 254677

Reader Emeritus: Rosemary Cahill 253306 Lay Preacher: Angela Myers 254559

F	rom the Church Registers: November 2022 Funeral: may he rest in peace	
17th November	John 'Max' Maxwell	Woolton Hill
	Burial of ashes: may they rest in peace	
16th November	Jean Olive Baker	Woolton Hill
16th November	Jennifer Berry	Woolton Hill







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Woolton Hill & District Gardeners' Club

Late November - Rediscovering Currants

White and pink currants ripen through summer to form perfect, jewellike berries which hang hidden in trusses, below mid-green leaves, like hands, protecting the berries from birds. So easy to grow in our climate, vet forgotten by some and undiscovered by many, these fruits and others formed the subject of the Gardeners' Club talk in November by Wilf Simcox, a retired lecturer from Sparshalt College.

Like most fruits, currants prefer a little sunshine, fertile well-drained. weed-free soil and a sheltered position. The more sun they receive. the sweeter the fruit will be. They can be grown in pots, as free-standing plants or trained against a wall. Plant bare-root bushes in autumn and pot-grown bushes any time in spring, allowing at least 1.3 metres for the plant to spread. Once planted, do not disturb the area around the roots, mulch to deter weeds and retain moisture and water well in dry weather. If you have ever pruned an apple tree, you will be able to prune a currant bush. In winter, take out dead and diseased stems, open up the bush so that stems are not crossing, reduce new stems by one third in length and trim side shoots to two buds.

Harvest in July by cupping the whole truss in your hand and gently pull the truss upwards to remove from the bush. You will need a very large container for the harvest from a mature plant. The currants are sweeter than you imagine, the skin

delicately thin, the flesh succulent, soft and juicy and the flavour reminiscent of champagne, kiwi and muscat grape. With an abundance of Vitamin C. low acidity and high pectin, this is a fruit which is ideal for iams, iellies and sweet surprises. Add the berries to a summer pudding or put into a muffin as you would with blueberries. Make them into a wintry ice-cream dessert with cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger or combine with mint and lemon verbena to make a jelly to serve with roast lamb.

You don't need a vegetable garden, allotment or fruit cage to grow a white current bush, just a shrub-sized space in a border in your garden or a large pot on a balcony or patio and you will be rewarded with large, spreading leaves, white flowers in spring and red stems in winter, as well as those little pearly berries to savour in summer. The white currant is long-lived, and one bush will give you enough fruit for a family for years to come. Good luck with growing. picking and eating!

Lorna Rains

Our next speaker will be Stefan White on the subject 'The Vegetable that Changed the World' on 26th January, followed by

Patricia Elkington on the subject 'Humour and Wisdom in the Garden' on 23rd February. Meetings begin at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.



East Woodhay Society

Community Christmas Village Walk

The village Christmas Walk takes place on Tuesday 27th December.

This is a combined event with Highclere Society, and we are meeting at

The Highclere Red House at 10.30am for an 11am prompt start. All ages are welcome, and the circular route will last approximately two hours. There will be a refreshment stop enroute, with free mulled wine and mince pies. There is no need to book, just turn up and wear sturdy footwear or wellies. Pushchairs are not recommended, but dogs are welcome, although they must be kept on leads at all times. For further details contact: wooltonhill.villagewalk@gmail.com.

Wine Quiz

After several years which have been affected by Covid it was great to be able to get together and have our AGM and Wine Quiz. As the St Thomas' Church Hall was not available due to the issues with flooring, we moved the venue to East Woodhay Village Hall. For the wine quiz there were ten tables of about eight people per table.



East Woodhay Society

Thanks to John Angle for superbly organising the wine and the associated descriptions which were then read and expanded upon by Clive Sanders, Amy White and Mark Rand. Each team had to then guess which wine they were drinking and its price.

Congratulations to the winning team, pictured here, of Robert Pooles, Claire Spencer, Jacqui Meacham, Jo Meacham, Anna Goble, Justin Simms, Melanie Leando and Kim Boog.

EWS Charity and AGM

At our AGM which we held before the wine quiz we voted on our good cause for 2023 and are pleased to support Newbury Soup Kitchen. Not only do they provide hot meals for those in need locally, they cater for the whole person: physically, emotionally, and socially.

In 2022 we raised £500 for Growing2Gether which will be doubled up to £1000 via the Good Exchange.

Anthony Allen and Mike Robinson have decided to step down from the committee and we thank them both for all they have done over the years. We are really pleased to welcome Amy White, Hermione Sheldon and Paul Hurst to the committee and are coming to help EWS provide a renewed focus on community events.

Woodhay Walkers

Fancy a walk on Friday mornings? Just come along and join us at 10.30am to enjoy the fresh air and a chat. There will not be a walk on Friday 30th December as we have the Christmas walk earlier that week.

We will be walking from St Thomas Church Hall in Woolton Hill on 6th and 13th January where the walks will be about 3 and 4 miles respectively. On 13th and 27th January we will be walking from a nearby location and please email woodhay-walkers@gmail.com or see the Woolton Hill website for more detail.

Mark Rand – Chair EWS
Email – eastwoodhaysociety@gmail.com
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New Pilates Class in Highclere with Joanna Lewis

Welcome Joanna! Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I originally qualified to teach aerobics in 1987 while my husband was still in the army, and we were moving about. We finally put down some roots in the Kingsclere area and I qualified with the Body Control Pilates Association (BCPA) in 2001 to teach Mat Pilates and have been doing that ever since. I go through a BCPA qualification process each year and have done additional modules such as Pilates for Golfers, Pilates for Riders, Pre and Post Natal Pilates, Pilates for Older People and Hip and Knee Rehabilitation.

I enjoy keeping fit by running every weekend, walking the dogs and generally being busy. I have two grown-up boys and a little granddaughter.

Why a new class in Highclere?

I established, and still run, four Pilates classes each week at the Fieldgate Centre in Kingsclere, but since moving to Penwood/Highclere six years ago, we have met so many new people, a few who come to my classes, some via Zoom, and I thought we should have one locally. So, in the New Year (from 12th Jan 23) I shall be starting a class at the Westridge Studio in Highclere at 10.30am on Thursdays. The class will be suitable for all levels of fitness, and I would encourage the over 60s to come and join in as it is so important for those of us in that age bracket to stretch every day and strengthen all our major muscles to keep us mobile and strong to keep doing the things we enjoy in life.

How do people join up?

The classes will run on a termly basis of 12 weeks and if anyone is interested, they can drop me an email (Joanna@PoloFarm.co.uk) or call or WhatsApp me on 07775635559.



National Women's Register



ur first meeting in November - "Women in the News" - brought out an eclectic range of newspaper articles involving interesting females!

The enthusiastic and determined English women's World Cup Rugby team prompted a look back at the origins of the game for women which started as far back as 1881 against negative public reaction to their involvement in contact sport.

Bronagh O'Kane runs the family farm in Northern Ireland as her brothers have chosen other careers. Women make up as little as 5% of registered principal farmers in NI and she hopes that attitudes and opportunities for women will change with time.

Akshata Murty, the PM's wife, was largely brought up by her paternal grandparents in a simple middleclass household in Bangalore whilst her parents launched their technology company. The family were known for leading a frugal lifestyle to preserve family values. She now combines family life with her own business and creative interests.

Tora Friedman, 84, has been recounting on Tiktok her shocking experiences while in Auschwitz to as many as 45 million views. Her book, "The daughter of Auschwitz", tells how she was only saved at the last minute from the gas chamber.

An article by Sophie Morris explained how eating mealworms and crickets could save the planet! Insects can contain up to three times the protein of meat as well as many other vitamins and minerals. Two billion people already eat insects worldwide, but consumer disgust at eating insects makes them a tricky sell to the western eater.

With US elections looming, we heard about Kamala Harris, the 49th Vice President of the US, who is the highest ranking female official in US history and the first female African/Asian/American vice president.

"Without Hands: The Art of Sarah Biffen" is an extraordinary exhibition of the works of this Victorian artist who, due to the genetic condition, Phocomelia, having no arms or legs, was forced to paint using only her mouth.

Lastly, we learnt about the award-winning children's writer, Holly Smale, who, after a lonely childhood, discovered later in life that she was on the autistic spectrum, reflected in her story. Geek Girl.

Our second meeting was the annual Telephone Treasure Trail. A theme began to emerge from the clues, and it was pointing to Dorset!

> As the trail progressed the correct answers were overwhelmingly towns and tourist attractions. Here are two clues:

- 1. Short William flashes here (Portland Bill)
- 2. Aged Secombe is a move (Old Harry Rocks) It was a lively and enjoyable evening, and we

were delighted with our team effort answering all 20 clues correctly.







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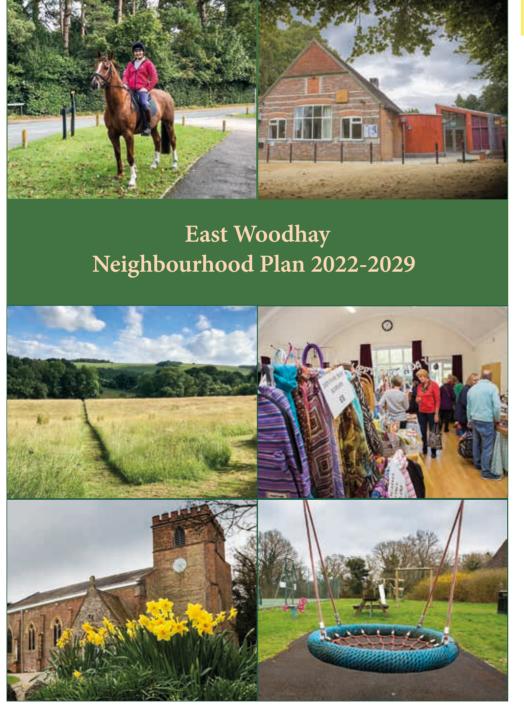
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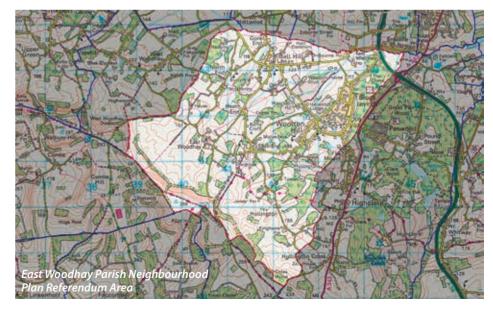
East Woodhay Parish Council

ollowing our update on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in last month's Spectrum, highlighting that the plan has been approved to move to referendum, we received a few questions on the next part of the process at the village market.

So, this is a quick overview of what happens next.

Basingstoke and Deane Electoral Services will solely manage the next part of the process through to referendum. They have much experience of this type of voting having now run many NP referendums in the Borough. Electoral Services will publish the date of the referendum and the question to be asked (based on their experience of past NP referendums). At the same time, they will publish an Information Statement that will include the final version of the NP and related documents, that have been updated to be in line with the independent examiner's report. The Information Statement will detail the whole process and direct people to where any questions can be asked.

The referendum will be run in a similar way to a local election. Electoral Services have the parish boundaries (see the map of the area below) and will be able to determine who is eligible to vote in the referendum. Anyone registered to vote (by a certain date which will be stated in the Information Statement) will be able to do so by their normal method. They will state the polling station that will be used if you normally vote in person. Electoral Services will run the referendum and announce the result. This result will determine whether the NP will be part of the documents used by Basingstoke and Deane to assess planning applications within the parish.



East Woodhay Women's Institute



"I haven't laughed so much in a long time", was the comment of one of our newer members after hearing Joyce Needham talk about 'Knitting from 1800-1940'. "I thought it would be dry," she said, "but no way!"

Joyce has a lively, slightly risqué sense of humour and can soon gauge the reaction of her audience. She brought a bag of yarns, patterns and garments which were either originals or ones she had made from vintage patterns. We marvelled at the tiny Victorian waist, the knitted vest and the wartime pullover. We all remembered the knitted bathing suit and its disadvantages! The knitted underwear brought the house down. Imagine having to knit your bra and pants! Everyone was able to handle the garments and marvel at the neat work. The competition was for a recycled object. We had a 'bring and buy' sale, which was popular. We had a Christmas party in December and in January we will be 'the ladies who lunch'!

June Milsom.

New Venture! Starting in January

Mindful that we may all need some exercise after Christmas, and won't fancy the cold weather, and keen to keep both body and brain active, we have a suggestion for all who enjoy music and the company of others.

Join us for some simple Traditional Social Dancing.

We are proposing an initial taster series of six lessons of social dances from a variety of places. They will all be easier on the knees than going for a run or lifting weights at the gym. We shall start gentle and simple and see where we go from there.

No previous experience required!

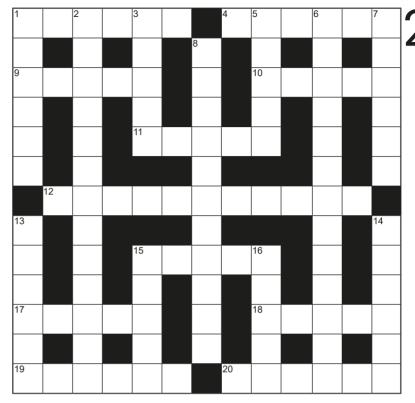
No partner required either. There will be partner dancing, but you will be equally welcome if you come alone or with friends.

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Answers crossword no 238
Across: 1 Locket, 4 Double, 9 Party, 10 Gauze, 11 Train, 12 Embrocation, 15 Tough, 17 Curio, 18 Melts, 19 Wreath, 20 Prayer
Down: 1 Lapdog, 2 Christmas Tree, 3 Egypt, 5 Organ, 6 Boughs of holly, 7 Emerge Breadcrumbs, 13 Moscow, 14 Mouser, 15 Trout, 16 Homer

Across

- 1. I go there so I can gamble (6)
- 4. Ship wrapped in foil? It must be prehistoric
- 9. Find Oxford or Cambridge, for example, on joining ASLEF (5)
- 10. Float above your head (5)
- 11. Say thank you for peanut sauce (5)
- 12. Lost at sea, shrew picked terrible way to go (11)
- 15. Moves at speed just to play pub game ((5)
- 17. Receive aid in this country (5)
- 18. Will he make a lengthy speech or eat all the food? (5)
- 19. Traditionally Friday, but makes any day a good one (6)
- 20. Observed a hard bleed (6)

Down

- 1. The sound of a good biscuit, or a credit squeeze (6)
- 2. When I hold king I say'Let's go for a break!' (6,7)
- 3. Dressed up for competition, but didn't get a 10 (5)
- 5. Ring to vary one of a pair for reproduction (5)
- 6. A bud she rolled into part of back (8,5)
- 7. Character often arrives by post (6)
- 8. Write banker a note asking for a vacation (6,5)
- 13. A puny shellfish (6)
- 14. Famous person uses limb to finish traditional story (6)
- 15. Tundra made great play once it lost tune (5)
- 16. Sit me in Greek island and see evidence of burning (5)

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Directory of Local Organizations

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Age Concern Community Information Volunteer Sarah
Arbor Flora Group . Secretary: Diana Durkin 01635 635813
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
member: Graham Falconer (cllr.graham.falconer@basingstoke.gov.uk)253144
Churches
East Woodhay, St Martin'swww.stmartins.church
Churchwardens Richard Twallin 253354
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East Woodhay Local History Society Sec: Christine Dalton 07880 628 114
East Woodhay Parish Council Members: www.eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk
James Mitchell (Ch) james.mitchell@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk. 01635 254747 Susan Cooper susan.cooper@eastwoodhay-pc.gov.uk 01635 254149
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